

The McGill Daily

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Volume 88 Issue 24
without quarum since 1911

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McGill Superhospital Site Chosen

BUT CONTROVERSY LINGERS
OVER PROJECT INTENTIONS

By BEN ERRETT

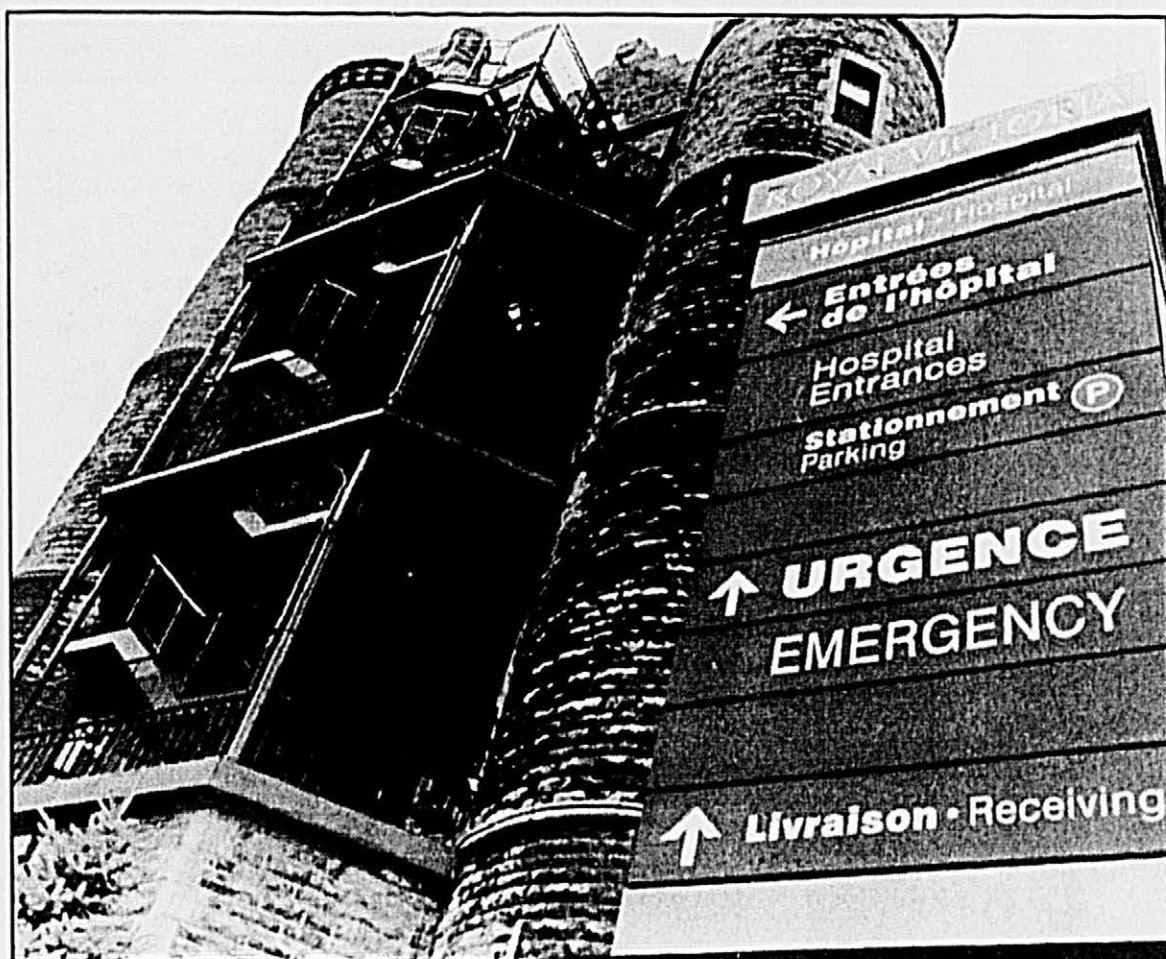


PHOTO BY CELINE HEINBECKER A PERSPECTIVE OF ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL TODAY. IF PLANS GO THROUGH FOR A SUPERHOSPITAL, THIS SITE MAY TURN INTO A VIEW OF CONDOMINIUMS

On Wednesday, November 4, McGill confirmed the rumoured site of the proposed superhospital: behind Vendome metro station, between Westmount and Notre Dame de Grace, where CN Rail's Glen Yards is presently located. The superhospital will combine The Montréal General, The Royal Victoria, The Montréal Children's, The Montréal Neurological as well as the RVH affiliated Montréal Chest Institute into one campus style complex, consisting of individual buildings for each specialty.

The announcement represents the real beginning of the completion of this project, according to Dr. Hugh Scott, executive director of the proposed health centre. The hospitals were legally united as the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) in July 1997. The confirmation of the site ends months of speculation, particularly by land developers eager to capitalize on the convenience of living near the province's largest anglophone hospital.

Dr. Abraham Fuks, McGill's Dean of Medicine and member of the MUHC Board of Directors, spoke to the Daily recently about the superhospital's goals. "MUHC offers tremendous clinical opportunities to a wide range of McGill faculties, including nursing, occupational therapy, and of course medicine. There will be a tremendous advantage to have all faculty members at one hospital. Also, medical residents from the university will be at this same hospital. McGill has an obligation to society to provide high quality health care and a premier research institution."

However, controversy remains about the necessity of the

new hospital. A recent CROP poll suggested that 75 percent of all Québeckers and 65 percent of anglophones would rather the hospitals used the money to re-arrange and renovate services and facilities in the present buildings than invest in new infrastructure. Ensemble, the newsletter of the MUHC, has stated that, even with proposed possible improvements, "the five sites would still...barely meet current international standards."

As well, although the \$475 million projected to repair the existing hospitals is much less than the billion plus needed to construct an entirely new hospital, the newsletter has stated that when all factors are considered, the real price tag could be "perhaps double." Dr. Fuks supported these conclusions, saying that it is simply not possible to renovate the present system. In addition, he took issue with the CROP poll, saying it consisted of one narrow question which misled those asked about the hospital.

Dominic Nelson, the new president of the Montréal General Hospital workers union, does not believe the economic arguments for the new hospital.

"The new superhospital would cost at least 1 billion, and that's not capped. Conceivably, it could cost more. For half of that, a state of the art pavilion could be added onto the General to contain all the cutting edge machines a modern hospital needs. That amount of money could be put directly into research."

Mr. Nelson also expressed concern over the ability of the new hospital to meet the needs of the community.

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It's Only Democracy if You Participate

LOW VOTER TURN OUT LAST YEAR PROMPTS SSMU
TO INCREASE POLL STATIONS

By AUTUMN HAAG

The first referendum of this school year is next week, so get out and vote. We, living in the civilized country that we do, become outraged at atrocities against personal and financial freedom in other parts of the world, and yet, when it comes to our own freedom and money, we appear to quite content to let others make the decisions.

If last year's voting trends don't change significantly, then only a small fraction of eligible voters will be determining this year's outcomes.

This year's referendum includes two important issues: the vote to accept the new SSMU

Constitution, and the vote to increase funding to the Sexual Assault Centre by \$0.25 per student per semester, bringing it to \$0.75 a semester. There is also the vote, open to all first year students, for the positions on the First Year Student Association council. A plebiscite will also ask students whether or not they support the proposed grade change of adding the A+/4.3.

Last year, there were two referenda: the first was a vote for more money to fund a student day-care center, the second asking for funding for a McGill-run organic food store. The Fall vote had a dismal 17.7% participation, with last year's FYSA elections

only bringing out 22.2% of eligible students.

The spring referendum had a 19.9% voter turnout, and the SSMU elections had a 20% participation rate. On average, then, just under 1/5 of all eligible students voted last year. This means that a significant minority of the students at McGill have been determining the decisions affecting non-tuition fees and student political leaders. It's not as if there is a strange, secret rite one must go through to be able to vote: one only needs to be a member of the SSMU, which most students are.

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COMMENT

BY LOUGI ADDARIO-BERRY

Campaigning for the Québec election has started. For the next month, two men will be the most closely scrutinized figures in Canada, with every newspaper across the country reporting their every step, misstep, word, and misspoken word. At least one of the two is on the front of every paper, the first item on CBC radio news, on every national newscast ... every day. All this will be done in much the same manner, regardless of the newspaper in which it occurs, or the TV or radio show on which it appears.

Media analysis of the Québec election in Canada - excepting Québec, for the moment - seems to me to be flawed, and there are a few reasons for this: first, an un-

willingness by the media to depart from the safe and narrow path. With the possible exception of a percentage of the Globe and Mail's coverage - they had a good analysis of the Charest-Bouchard spot in last Thursday's paper - everyone is basically saying the same thing. Charest is losing. Bouchard is winning. The Liberals are smart to make healthcare an issue. The federal government is dumb for butting in. Charest is dumb for invoking Harris. Bouchard is smart for exploiting the blunders of his adversaries. Bouchard is - smart or dumb - refusing to come clean on the referendum issue. There seem to be a set number of issues and attitudes, and aside from these, the press is basically silent.

Second, the press, in all their coverage, seem to be playing up the intelligence and ingenuity of Bouchard, as well as making a point of the fact he is in the lead. In every article, mention is made of Bouchard's lead in the polls, and of his ingenious exploitation of the comments of Charest and - especially - Jean Chrétien's boundless capacity for putting his foot in his mouth at every turn.

Perhaps it's just Canada living up to the old saw about our innate masochism, but it still seems a little lopsided, this tendency to focus on the strong points of the man who is supposedly - according to these same papers - the enemy. Even the Gazette, which operates on a decidedly federalist mandate - an example would be their primary advertizing slogan: "The English Language. Daily." - has not been exempt from this phenomenon, their coverage mirroring that of all the other Conrad Black papers in the country.

Third, though there has been much analysis of the Québec spot, and much on the primary dichotomy present in the upcoming election (Conservative vs. Progressive, tax cuts vs. social programs, federalism vs. ... well, you know the rest), there has been little to no critical writing on the actual policies and promises of the two parties.

When the party lines are considered, the truth of the matter is a little surprising ... or maybe not.

Hooking myself up to the respective party web sites, I navigated to the sections which outlined the platforms of the two parties: here are, in order, the issues on the PQ agenda.

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Seemingly Obvious

BY

JEFF

WEBBER

Generally, the press is full of admonitions against social spending, taking at face value our politician's claims of neoliberal economic necessity. Debate ends when the onerous

expect the same opportunities that the average Canadian can. It is not legitimate to say to the 26,000 people who were forced to use Toronto's emergency hostel system in 1996 (5,300 of them children), that their pain is a 'correct' part of the 'only' economic path to Canadian prosperity.

Among others', Mike Harris', Jean Chrétien's, Ralph Klein's, Glenn Clark's, Roy Romanov's, Jean Charest's, and Lucien Bouchard's arrogance and lack of foresight should not be passively accepted. As Ginsberg told us in 1980, "Talk back to the Tyrants all they're afraid of is your tongues."

The enormous gap between the rich and poor is simply taken for granted in society at large. But most disconcerting to me, is the sort of lethargic response of students. And if it's not lethargy it's most often animosity toward the poor. In the last issue of the *Tribune*, a Freedom of the Press article by Michael Hazan lamented the presence of "bums" on campus; not because it is abhorrent that such poverty exists in such a wealthy country, but because "These guys prey on the poorest of society - students." I'm not suggesting that Hazan's flagrant ignorance is indicative of the student populace in its entirety, but that perhaps these sorts of comments do not deviate far enough away from the average student's perception of the poor.

We need to abandon the myth that the poor are deservedly so. We need to accept that economics is not a science, but debatable to its very core. Institutionalized poverty is not an inevitable component of our prosperous ascent, but the disgraceful evidence of our neglecting social justice.

enemies of 'debts' and 'deficits' are used to substantiate all current economic policy by our federal Liberals. It seems as though, even in our universities, economics has been universally accepted as a separate sphere from politics. As though economics is a science, and those favouring laissez faire have proven their hypothesis.

An anomalous report in *The Globe And Mail* last Friday demonstrated the seemingly obvious. The type of neighborhood a child lives in has an impact on that child's future income. The income level of parents correlates with the income their children can expect to earn as adults (No politicians were asked as to what might be their solution to this problem, or if they even see it as a problem). Economics affects peoples' lives, lives like that of the elderly homeless man on St. Laurent Blvd. Given this fact, economic policy must be debated as all political issues ought to be debated in a political democracy. Economics and politics are inherently intertwined. We wouldn't let our politicians dictate what literature is 'good' for us to read. We wouldn't let our politicians dictate what religions are 'correct'. Suggestions that technocrats know what economics is best for us is as authoritarian as it gets.

It is not good, right, necessary, or inevitable that aboriginals living on reserves cannot

Capturing the preeminent sentiment toward poverty in this country is difficult at best, impossible at worst. I think Wayne Gretzky might have come closest in his contribution to a 1984 book *My Canada*: "Our free enterprise system allows those with ambition to achieve their goals. All of this makes it an honour and privilege to be a Canadian!" Poverty is not a problem in this country.

The delusional homeless man I passed en route to my favourite café on St. Laurent Blvd. two nights ago must have lacked ambition. He had one shoe off in the below-freezing, night air. Looking at his foot, through a veil of stringy white hair, he told himself he hadn't taken his medicine. His foot was pink from the cold, swollen with a large infected sore. Perhaps we should approach him and suggest he start a small business. Or maybe he could have tried harder in hockey practice.

The point here is, Wayne Gretzky got it wrong at the same time he got it right. He's right in that many Canadians feel our free enterprise system has allowed all citizens with ambition to freely advance through our social hierarchy. The preeminent view of poverty in our society might be, then, that one is poor because one has an impoverished personality, that one lacks intestinal fortitude. Success, in the monetary sense, is achievable if you put some effort into it.

The ways in which this idea is wrong are too numerable to address here in any depth. But, showing some ambition, I'll make an attempt.

Essentially, there has been a normalization of poverty in Canada, such that people regard it as an ordinary and inevitable element of society. Even worse, in some cases poverty is invisible to those not afflicted.

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editorial offices:

3480 McTAVISH ST., MONTREAL, QC., ROOM B-03, H3A 1X9

business and advertising office:

3480 McTAVISH ST., MONTREAL, QC., ROOM B-07, H3A 1X9

email: DAILY@GENERATION.NET

editorial: (514) 398-6784

fax: (514) 398-8318

business/advertising: (514) 398-6790

business manager:

MARIAN SCHIER

assistant business manager:

PARVATI NEOGI

advertising management:

LETTY MATTEO, BORIS SHEDOV

advertising layout and design:

MARK BROOKER

contributors:

PAUL DUFFY, BEN ERRETT, AUTUMN HAAG, CÉLINE HEINBRUCKER, ALEX HILL, DASHA MERKISHIEVA, REBECCA ROSENBLUM, MELANIE TAKEFMAN

co-ordinating editor:

VERDA COOK

co-ordinating news editor:

JEFF WEBBER

co-ordinating culture editor:

ANNA ALDERSON

news editors:

LOUGI ADDARIO-BERRY, JASON CHOW

culture editors:

JULIA DAULT,

features editor:

LOUIE BRAUN

photo editor:

LOUIE BRAUN

layout and design co-ordinators:

AMY PAPADAKIS, JAMES YAP

office manager/online editor:

AMY PAPADAKIS

départ français:

PATRICK PRIMEAU

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All candidates must present a photo identification in the form of a passport and a birth certificate giving the place and date of birth.



Robinson Speaks Out on APEC

NDP MP CALLS SCANDAL A "VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS"

BY DASHA MERKUSHEVA

"If it happened at University of British Columbia, it could have happened anywhere, even at McGill," Svend Robinson promised last Tuesday at his speech devoted to the APEC inquiry.

Svend Robinson, a charismatic NDP member and MP for Burnaby-Douglas, is seriously concerned with the current situation in Canadian politics and believes this country is slowly turning into a police state.

Thus, to alert the public and the students of the happenings, Mr. Robinson has planned a cross-Canada campus tour speaking about the issues surrounding APEC incident and its consequences.

"I can't think of an issue that would depend in a more profound way to me, to the kind of the country we are, or the country we want to be, than what took place a year ago, this month, in my home province of BC, around the APEC summit," Robinson opened his speech.

What makes him so alarmed with the pepper-spray incident is that what he calls as "the violation of human rights" had no legal foundations, and hence was not only morally wrong, but also a characteristic of a police state.

After the opening remarks Svend Robinson went on to remind of the APEC incident's details such as the tearing down of banners and signs, and the pepper-spraying followed by the student arrests.

He also mentioned that in order to be released students had to sign an agreement that they will neither demonstrate nor rally against any of the APEC countries: "You have to sign in writing an agreement that you will not demonstrate, will not exercise your Charter rights of the freedom of speech, of the freedom of association; and if you do, you will be locked up."

After describing the incident in every emotional detail, Robinson reminded the audience about the Prime Minister's response and his later remark to Robinson's proposition of apologizing to the students. Chrétien said then: "Well, they should be grateful, at least it wasn't baseball bats." Chrétien's comments prompted Robinson to believe that the Prime Minister can no longer be trusted with securing human rights in this country.

After throwing that bait into the

audience, Robinson went on to make his comments on APEC as an organization.

"APEC is not about human rights, not about the environment, not about the prevention of exploitation of labour, including child labour, not about any basic social standards," noted Robinson.

This he compared to the APEC's strive for the removal of trade barriers and economical globalization, thus leading to further growth of the gap between the rich and the poor.

Further, he recalled that just a month ago, the Prime Minister made it absolutely clear that human rights will not be an issue at the next APEC summit which is to happen in Malaysia.

According to Robinson, the current Liberal government's motives are purely economic: "the silence of this government on the human rights is added with the pursuit of corporate profit as the Canadian foreign policy."

In his conclusion, Robinson returned to the thesis about the police state, sharing with the audience his views on the RCMP Public Complaints Commission.

He said since the present commission does not have the legal grounds for investigating the prime-minister's involvement in the incident, "a whole independent commission should be set up to look at the role of the prime-minister, not only RCMP."

Thus, Mr. Robinson questioned the need for Canada's membership in the APEC, and called for "an independent judicial inquiry and a strong civil action." He also expressed his desire to boycott the upcoming summit in Malaysia.

After Robinson concluded with the need of everyone "to work to insure that the rights of people around the world are not just an illusion, but a reality," the audience was given an opportunity to react to the speech.

The debate arose when one of the students expressed his concern with mixing the need for such organizations as APEC, which they serve solely economic purposes,



SVEND ROBINSON AT MCGILL LAST TUESDAY

with moral considerations.

Robinson responded by pointing out that it is not true, though believed by many people, that economic development inevitably leads to humanitarian development, as is evident from the current lives of people in China.

Later, another student returned to the issue of Canada withdrawing from APEC, but wondered if Robinson also proposes for Canada to leave other international economic unions, say NAFTA.

Robinson responded by again saying that on one hand it is not possible for Canada to have absolutely no international trade, and yet on the other hand, such trade is often not profitable from a moral stand.

The whole issue of the Liberal party being solely responsible for the violations of human rights, though generally well taken by the audience, primarily constituted of young NDP followers, allowed a Federal Liberal party member to voice his concern. This student wondered if there is something liberal party members can do to protest the government's approach to the APEC inquiry.

Robinson was left only to joke that such Liberals will have to join another party, for the government is silencing the whole issue and takes no responsibility for the incident.

Despite the lack of clarity on the future of the APEC inquiry, Robinson pronounced a strong NDP line, and most of the crowd appeared to leave feeling positive about the potential for future developments.

McGill Prof enters election fray

DONDERI RUNNING FOR EQUALITY IN VAUDREUIL

BY BEN ERRETT

McGill psychology professor Donderi has announced his candidacy as a member of the staunchly federalist Equality Party in the upcoming Quebec election. The Daily spoke with Professor Donderi on Friday, and a partial transcript of the interview follows.

Daily: Professor Donderi, what is your main goal in running for office?—Donderi: My main goal is to promote the platform of the Equality party [available at www.equality.qc.ca] and get members elected to the National Assembly.

Daily: Do you believe you could help McGill from the National Assembly? If so, how?

Donderi: People who support fundamental rights in Quebec like the Equality party and who are against referendum on any basis short of the Supreme Court decision are doing McGill more good than just about anyone else can possibly do. They are fighting for the conditions that make McGill prosperous in Canada.

Daily: To what extent do you try to separate your political life from your life at McGill?

Donderi: They're completely separate.

Daily: Your comments about Principal Shapiro's involvement in this summer's Quebec trade delegation to the United States caused some debate in the McGill community. Do you regret making such statements?

Donderi: First of all, I didn't hear any debate, and secondly, no.

Daily: These statements were essentially that it was irresponsible for Principal Shapiro to go to the U.S. with sovereignist politicians who promote a sovereign Quebec.

Donderi: I was more explicit than that! I said it was hypocritical and disgusting and I repeat that.

Daily: Your 1990 speech, in which you stated that "In the long run, the goals of Nazi Germany and the goals of the au-

thors of Bills 101 and 178 are the same; to destroy a people and a culture..." has led members of the French press to label you as a radical. What do you say to this?

Donderi: The statements are true and if that's radical, so be it.

Daily: Do you see any potential alienation of the anglophone Jewish population in Montreal with statements like this?

Donderi: No.

Daily: The Equality Party is opposed to recognizing distinct society status for Quebec and the Calgary accord. Yet the 40% of the Quebec population that supports independence sees these measures as a bare minimum. Do you see any room for consensus there?

Donderi: None whatsoever. The Calgary accord and the distinct society notion enshrined in the Canadian Constitution both essentially establish what Quebec is presently doing, which is maintaining hereditary rights to education (which are banned by U.N. treaties that Canada has signed) and also maintain language discrimination of a kind not practiced anywhere else in the civilized world. So, the basic answer is no.

Daily: What do you feel your party has to offer francophone Quebecers?

Donderi: The same things we have to offer anglophone Quebecers, or any Quebecers for that matter. We recognize that Canada is one country, with one standard of human rights for everyone, and with the protection of rights like access to education based on choice and not heredity, and freedom to use one's language in commerce without restriction. We have a lot to offer every Quebecer.

Daily: What would you say to

a francophone Quebecer who wants some sort of protection for the French language and is concerned about the survival of the French language in North America?

Donderi: I'd say he's got his protection, and he doesn't need as much as he's got. Depriving francophone students of the right to be educated in English is a practice not condoned by any bilingual or multilingual country in Europe. There's no evidence anywhere that the French language is disappearing. That's nonsense.

Daily: Unlike past Liberal leaders, Jean Charest is proud to call himself a Canadian. As well, many see him as the best hope for federalism in Quebec. Why do you think the Equality party is relevant now for federalist voters?

Donderi: First of all, Jean Charest is a very tepid federalist when it comes to political policy. He supports 50% plus one as a legitimate vote for separation... If he loses, he can't oppose a unilateral declaration of independence on a 50% plus one because his party passed the law that makes that possible, Bill 150.... He's not a strong defender of federalism, and the Equality party is.

Daily: What would happen to the PQ and its supporters in an ideal Equality Party vision of Quebec?

Donderi: In an ideal world, Quebec is a province of Canada with a French majority. We accept official bilingualism, we have no quarrel with that. People who live in Quebec have no reason to be discontented with Canada, and absolutely no reason to want anything more than Quebec already has in Canada.

Daily: Thank you very much.

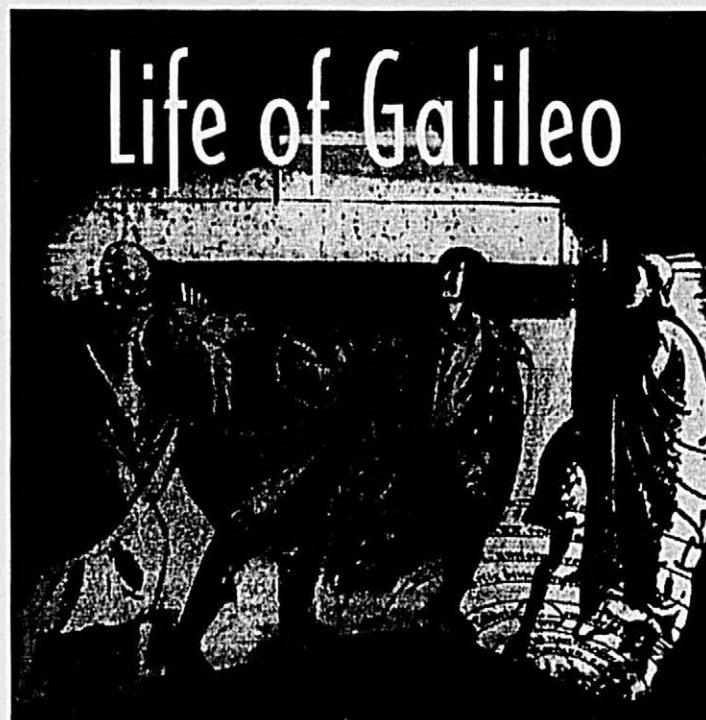
Donderi: You're quite welcome.

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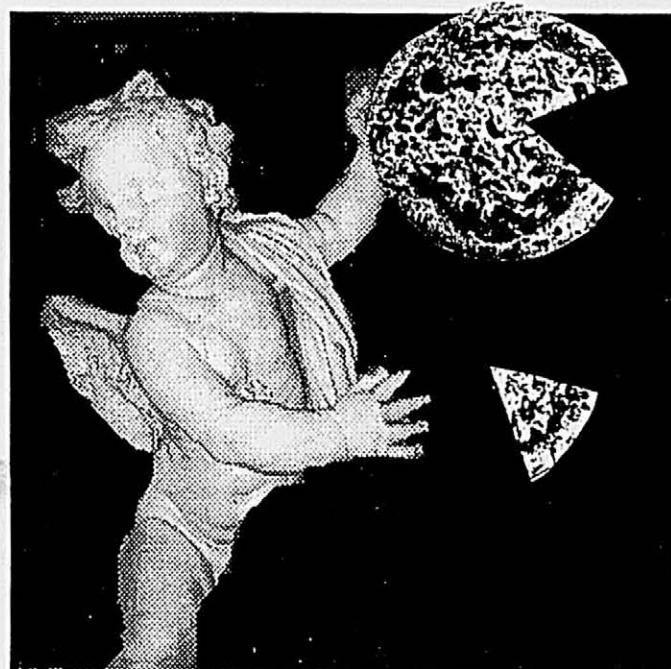
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MARIO DUMONT SPEAKS TO THE DAILY

BY JASON CHOW

The stairs creaked as we walked up to the converted warehouse.

But as we reached the third floor, there was no mistake we were at a political party's campaign headquarters. The makeshift office had the hum of constant activity: phones were perpetually ringing, cigarette smoke filled the rooms, people walked briskly in all directions.

We waited patiently for ten minutes for the journalist before us to finish. Apparently, he woke up at the same time he was scheduled for an interview.

Mario Dumont, leader of the Action Démocratique du Québec (ADQ) soon emerged from the back. He was immediately recognizable, not just because his face is plastered on campaign posters, but also because of his commanding presence. His tall frame, youthful enthusiasm, determined eyes, and confident walk mark him as the headman.

We are led to a back conference room and start chatting. First, I asked him how he feels

"For sure, the Liberal party gave me a lot of experience in how a party works.... But what we've had the same program for years. There has been a continuity, a coherence in our action.... We haven't taken a rabbit out of a hat for a platform."

The ADQ platform repeats the words "libero-péquistes" in a pejorative manner. He differentiated his party from the other two by claiming to "plan for the long term." He also believed he was free from interest-group lobbies and labour unions. It is this freedom that allows him, as he frames it in fashionable political rhetoric, "to address the problem at its roots."

And one of the problems for the ADQ is what Dumont sees as the overgrown state. The party calls for a transformation of government, from what it is today to what Dumont calls "un Etat facilitateur" (facilitator state). "Especially in Québec, we believe that the state must play a role, but the same one as in 1970," he said. He criticized government subsidies for big industries of past

government agencies and an amalgamation of several social programs into one "le Revenu minimum du citoyen." The rationale is simple for Dumont: we must not "mortgage the future on the backs of the new generation." With the coming retirement of the aging baby boomers, Québec's largest demographic group, he believes that there must be "long-term planning."

Like other political parties who have adopted neo-conservative agendas, Dumont and the ADQ advocate tax cuts. When asked what percentage he would take off the current tax rate, he responded, "We are not a party about numbers. We are a party for being realistic, for presenting real solutions."

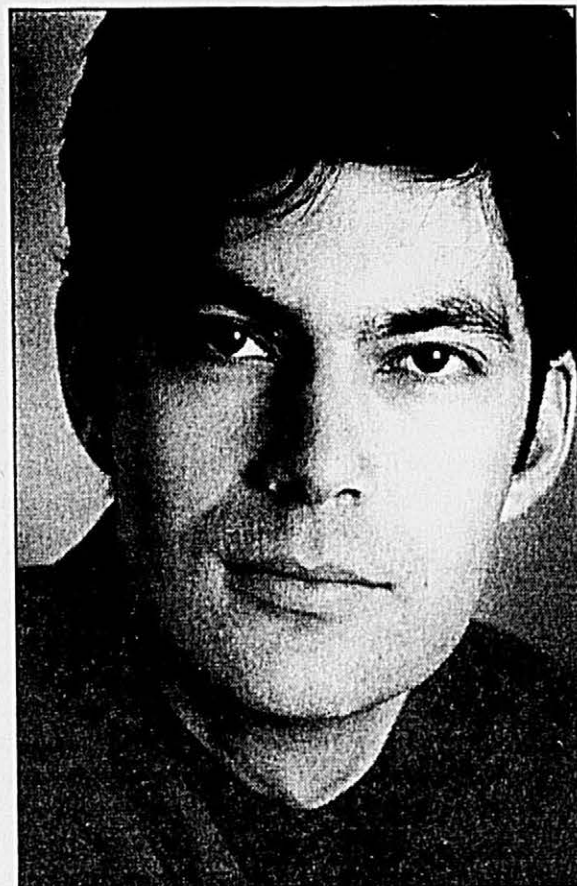
But for a party not interested in numbers, the ADQ plan on education is curious, to say the least.

Dumont's views on education are those of a technocrat. In the platform and in the interview, he stressed the need for universities to be more in tune with the needs of the labour force. "University departments which produce graduates who are in demand, should receive 130% of their existing funding. Other programs which are not so employable should receive

70% of the current levels of funding." Education, for Dumont, is solely a means to employment.

On the issue of tuition fees, he called for the need to adjust the current fees each year by the annual rate of inflation — a plan identical Charest's tuition policy. When asked of his opinion on differential tuition fees, he simply said, "We are in agreement with the others."

He also criticizes the Liberal and PQ parties for dividing the province on constitutional issues and pledges the monumental task of forming a consensus among the Québécois. But he sees this commonality not in the constitutional debate, but in what he calls the need to "bring Québec to the same speed as the rest of the world."



MARIO DUMONT, LEADER OF THE ADQ

PHOTO BY CAROLINE BERGERON

But on the sensitive constitution issue, he sits on both sides of the fence. The platform calls for a new social union between Québec and Canada. "In the long term, there is a need for greater autonomy for Québec," said Dumont. The Supreme Court judgment, as interpreted by Dumont, states that "if one of the partners make the proposition, all the provinces are obligated to negotiate." He also added a potshot on the current PQ government: "The péquistes call themselves the great defenders of the interests of Québec, but the actual result on the constitutional front — it adds up to zero."

Re-negotiation of the constitution will come from what the ADQ calls "a moratorium on referendums on sovereignty during the next mandate to create a conducive environment for a 'bonne entente.'"

So what does this all add up to? Who is Dumont speaking to? The platform constantly repeats the words "this new generation." His policies of dismantling the state, so painstakingly constructed and guarded by the baby boomers, and his call for tax cuts to create opportunities for the "new entrepreneurs of this generation" seems to be an agenda crafted to appeal to upwardly-mobile youth. When asked if he was trying to be the

spokesperson of Generation X, he responded by saying, "Certainly, it's a generation that has been abandoned by the other parties. Whenever you speak on behalf of the youth, you'll get the label. But, our message is addressed to everybody, because the parents and the grandparents are counting on us to pay for their health and their pensions."

He then returned back to his slogan-like political rhetoric to conclude the interview: "We have to stop borrowing in the present and mortgaging in the future and start investing in the present to prepare for the future."

We left the conference room quickly and were given press releases on his education program. When I turned my head to ask Dumont a quick final question, he was already paces ahead, quickly greeting the next journalist for another interview.

Talking to the Director of Communications of the party's campaign, Pierre Miquelon, the objectives of the campaign are obviously not to form a government. "We want 20% of the popular vote or 12 seats in the National Assembly to become an official party." Will the Super Mario and his ADQ pull it off with this brash program?



about the campaign. Depending on which poll you look at, the ADQ has been hovering between six and nine per cent of the popular vote, in third place behind the Liberals and the Parti Québécois.

"We are really happy. Really happy. I tried calling this office yesterday [when I was out] and the phone lines were jammed," he said smiling. He added that the media was picking up on his message and he was pleased with the coverage the party was receiving.

Dumont, a native of Rivière-du-loup, a graduate of Université Laval in political science, and former leader of the Québec Liberals youth wing, began explaining the roots of his party's ideas.

years. He said that government "can share the risk, give a little push [to industry]," but opposed open-ended subsidies. The state "should not be an entrepreneur, hiding money in subsidy costs."

One of the more controversial points of his platform advocates the elimination of 25% of the bureaucracy. Why? "To pay back the debt in order to leave following generations some dignity." But Dumont also outlined the need for an injection of youth in the civil service. The platform clearly states "the need to institute a plan... of which the target will be an equivalent proportion of young people in the civil service" to the proportion of young people in the population at large.

The party also calls for a drastic reduction in the number of

Bouchard, Charest, and la Belle Province

A MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

BY LOUIGI ADDARIO-BERRY

In three weeks time, a provincial election will take place in Québec. Though the issues are old - as old as Canada itself - and well known to Québeckers - and to the rest of the country, for that matter - the current campaign differs from those of past years. The battle which is unfolding before us promises to be more intense, more vicious, than any previous struggle for control of this province.

In addition, it is still unclear which way the tide will turn: though the Parti Québécois holds a slight advantage at the moment, things are far from being decided, and there's still a long way to go. In the next three weeks, these two men will be doing all in their power to gain control of a minority of voters - perhaps 4 to 5 percent - who could go either way.

But though only a few percent will - might - change their minds, the whole province, and beyond, will be gripping their seats, biting their fingernails, and awaiting anxiously the next official poll, to find out whose team has that precious one percent advantage which could catapult them to victory.

That having been said, here's a look at the election campaign: for those of you who know your main man ... and those who aren't quite sure.

The Candidates

"Bouchard has been a typical sort of *Bleu*. He's a conservative in politics, he's been able to use a very moderate national question to great effect in keeping Charest off guard. He's been amazingly successful in keeping voter confidence; given the tough issues he's had to face, unemployment and so on, it's amazing that he's a favourite in this election. It speaks to his effectiveness as a politician."

These are the words of Prof. Brian Young, of the History Department at McGill University. Young is teaching a course next semester on Canada since 1945, with sections focusing on the Quiet Revolution and on nationalism in Canada.

"His standing as a politician is rising very rapidly. He's done a very effective job," he said, of Bouchard's talent for saying the right thing at the right time. And indeed, this seems to be the case.

Lucien Bouchard took the helm of the Parti Québécois in 1995, after Jacques Parizeau resigned following the narrow defeat of the sovereigntists in the referendum of that year. Bouchard, originally a member of the federal Progressive Conserva-

tives, switched to the PQ during Mulroney's reign, and became known as a charismatic man, with a gift for public speaking and a keen intellect, powerful tools for drawing people to his side.

He is not, however, without weakness. Part of his charisma is tied to his passion on the issues which made him come to Québec in the first place. But that same passion can lead him to slip, to be goaded into rash statements.

In the words of Professor Richard Schultz, a political science professor working with the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, "Bouchard is capable of temper tantrums. Charest clearly gets under his skin, and that could work against him in the weeks to come." And that brings us to the other warrior.

Jean Charest is the white knight of sovereignty, the light at the end of the tunnel, and the glue that holds together a country falling apart at the seams. At least, this was the view from Canada outside Québec, when they urged Charest to leave the federal PCs and move to the Québec provincial Liberals this spring.

Charest, also a charismatic, intense man, has had run-ins with Bouchard before. They wrangled over Meech Lake, and there are bitter feelings between the two of them that still haven't disappeared. Schultz said, "It's obvious they bring a lot of baggage to the campaign, baggage that goes back to the time when they were both in the Tory cabinet. I think that of the two, Bouchard is the one who brings more bitter emotions to the campaign. Bouchard has all of the characteristics of the traditional 'chef' of Québec politics. He's a

very thin-skinned politician, and tends to personalize the campaign, to impart his own feelings to his party's line."

This adds a personal element to the cam-

paign which, although not directly representing the interests of Québeckers, certainly can be seen



as paralleling the tension between francophone and anglophone communities in Québec.

Though the election will center around these two men, there is a third candidate running for office. The man is Mario Dumont, running in the Rivière-du-Loup riding. Dumont is young, 29, and a major part of his platform is to represent students' interests in the upcoming election. Despite this claim, however, Dumont's politics are decidedly right of center, as with the other two candidates.

But there is an impression of Dumont as an upstart in provincial politics, and some people question his role in this campaign.

"This is the only province in this country where a boy-child, where students, can have so much influence on political life. It's an unfortunate legacy of Robert Bourassa. Dumont is a non player, and should have been treated as a non-player five years ago," said Schultz.

What's it all about?

In the opinion of Ron Wexler, a Masters student in Economics and coordinator of the State University of New York (SUNY) exchange program at McGill, "The referendum is what's really the question here. Bouchard is trying to hide from the real issue at hand by discussing health, tax, and social programs, when it's transparent that

what this election is really about is sovereignty."

One of the interesting factors of the campaign to this point, however, is the downplay - on both sides - of the referendum issue.

Neither candidate is basing the cam-

paign on the referendum issue. Charest's image as the poster boy of Canadian federalists is keeping a segment of Québec at a distance from him, a stigma he is fighting hard to overcome. With the sorts of comments Charest has made, such as his remark that Chrétien "ought to consider resigning" after the PM's interview with *La Presse*, it is clear this is an image he would be just as happy to avoid.

Hot Blood

Feelings in Québec run hot in the blood of its inhabitants, and at the center of these is politics. Everyone has an opinion on sovereignty, on the referendum, on the candidates; in fact, it's commonly seen as both irresponsible and ignorant not to. And a PhD doesn't make you exempt.

"I would like to see that shadow removed," says Schultz, referring to the spectre of a referendum looming in the distance. "...all the PQ talk about winning conditions ... is the most manipulative, antidemocratic nonsense I've seen, in thirty years of studying politics. I find it very offensive, the very shallow understanding by Bouchard of what democracy really is."

Wexley shares this view. "Bouchard's reign has helped Québec in no way. It is because of the fear of secession, the fear of the Parti Québécois, that unemployment is still at 10%; that growth levels remain so low, that Québec hasn't had the kind of growth of Ontario, or B.C., or the other provinces. It's time for a change."

But the campaign trail is long, and a lead in the polls is only good until the next public appearance. This election will only be decided on November 30, by the voters; the decision of who will lead Québec into the 21st century is in their hands.

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THE DAILY SINCE 1911

Activist Tells His Story

LORENZO KOM'BOA ERVIN GIVES INSPIRING TALK

AT CONCORDIA

BY REBECCA ROSENBLUM

In a ball cap, a turquoise striped pullover and a turtle neck, the revolutionary, black liberationist and anarchist Lorenzo Kom'Boa Ervin was a less than awe-inspiring sight.

A n unimposing figure, he sat on the floor waiting for the sound equipment to start working properly. It was only when he stepped to the microphone and began to speak that the one hundred odd students and activists in the audience saw anything of what has made him "a renowned

writer about the liberation movement", as he was introduced, and a disturber of public meetings, as he has been called by the police.

"It does not have to be me here speaking with you, it could be anyone of a number of people," Ervin began, referring to the time he spent in U.S. prisons, from 1969 to 1983. Eventually he was released, only due to an international campaign spearheaded by The Anarchist Black Cross; Mr. Ervin had originally been sentenced to two life sentences for hijacking a plane.

Prisons in general, and his experience with them in particular, constituted a large part of Ervin's talk. "In the U.S. imprisoning is used as a social control tool...to defeat dissident movements," he claimed. "[if] you're black and you're young, your chance of going to prison...improves over your chances of going to college."

After starting with the topic of prisons, Ervin went on to give what he called "a personal history of the (U.S.) Civil Rights movement", in the interest of explaining the contemporary situation and, more important, to show that "youth and students can change the world. No question about it. Been there, done that."

Ervin was notably not enthralled with the work of the late Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., usually thought of as the figurehead of the Civil Rights movement. "Martin Luther King is the darling

of the white media because he was much more moderate... there are always people in any struggle who are unsung," he commented. Ervin then went on to tell the stories of

ple had gotten jobs in that industry as a result of fights that had been going on for years. These black workers saw what was going on with the students and they called for a general strike."

That fight was eventually at least partially won and the movement went on. Ervin outlined the development of various organiza-



LORENZO KOM'BOA: A LESS THAN AWE-INSPIRING SIGHT BUT A RENOWNED SPEAKER

some of these "unsung" including E.D. Nixon, the man who appointed King as head of the Montgomery Improvement Association.

The lecture also included a moving account of the Montgomery bus boycott, "The boycott was only supposed to last one day and it lasted a year. And there was 100% participation. When there was KKK intimidation...nobody folded and went over to the white government. And they held out for a year and eventually broke the back of the white racist government," explained Ervin.

He went on to say that the movement had stalled after the success of the bus boycott and was only jump-started several years later, this time by college students. "For a black college student to sit down and demand to be served was taking his life in his hands [in the southern U.S.]," he stated. Students did win the desegregation of faculties first in Greensboro, North Carolina and later in 69 other campuses.

Ervin's own hometown, the Klan intensive city of Chattanooga, Tennessee, was known to be different than most of the cities where student victories had occurred. There were violent confrontations there between student demonstrators and police. Ervin went on to explain that "Chattanooga was number two in steel production, many black peo-

tions within the movement and what they accomplished. In summing this part of the lecture he stated, "This movement only lasted five or seven years, but they were able to move millions."

Ervin went on to describe his time in prison, notably glossing over what he did to get there (which was hijack a plane to Cuba). He decided once in prison that, "[a]ny act of resistance, I was gonna be in it. I was gonna make it impossible for them to keep me quiet."

He also described the unique climate within the prisons during the height of the civil rights movement. "There were so many arrests, there were almost the entire memberships of certain organizations within the prisons, so when we had rebellions, some KKK prisoners were killed. We attacked them...with the intention of wiping them out," he recalls. Ervin had thirty years added to his sentence for such acts of rebellion, which he says "[d]idn't really matter, in addition to life."

Although he did tell of these specific events from his life, Ervin was quick to point out that they had general applications, "I'm speaking first of all not about myself; I am just one of a class of people who were rail roaded to prison." His final words to the crowd were, "I hope I've given you something that you can use," the audience responded with thunderous applause.

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THE DAILY
SINCE 1911

How I Spent My Summer

SUMMER CAMP - REFUGEE CAMP?

BY ALEX HILL

"I had the resilience [to live in Lebanon] for a summer, but not the strength to be able to stay," said Andrea Becker in a presentation entitled "Future? What Future?"

Last summer, McGill students Becker and Mark Zeitoun and traveled to Lebanon to teach English in two Palestinian Refugee camps. Representing the Canadian-Palestinian Educational Exchange (CEPAL), they spent two months living and working with the refugees to ameliorate their plight in the camps. In the McGill talk, the two students relayed their experience of confronting the refugee's dire situation.

During the presentation, Zeitoun and Becker suggested that the egregious problems facing the people in the camps include a lack of available education, unemployment, ramshackle infrastructure, poverty, and the associated health risks. "Urban chaos" was the term Becker chose to describe the camps. But ultimately, Zeitoun and Becker's presentation focused on the refugees' outlook for the future considering the above mentioned problems.

"Traditionally, Palestinians value education highly," explained Zeitoun, "but there is currently an educational crisis in the camps: schools are over filled, dropout rates are high and the facilities are disintegrating." He believes that those in the camps who speak English will have a chance at survival. English increases the chance of getting a job or even emigrating to

another country. This was the rationale behind the formation of CEPAL, explained Zeitoun, one of the founding members.

The UN provides for a school system through the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). These schools now run on a double shift (two sets of students attend, one set in the morning, one in the afternoon) with class sizes of between 40 and 50 students. Note books are no longer provided due to the lack of funds and the huge number of students.

CEPAL seeks to facilitate a two-way learning process. By sending volunteers to teach English they

help improve the failing school system and at the same time the volunteers are educated on the conditions faced in the camp — information used to raise awareness here in Canada.

Zeitoun explained that refugees are banned from 73 professions in Lebanon. This leaves most people working in construction or as laborers, regardless of their qualifications. Work comes sporadically for the refugees: "I had work for three days but then it ended," said one man. Even those who have worked the same job for years are still at the whim of their employers, treated as temporary employ-

ees. Living in a nursery, Zeitoun witnessed the "crippling frustration and anger on the faces of men who have the traditional desire to support their families" but find themselves out of work, taking care of infants.

An estimated eighteen thousand people live in the Burj el-Barajneh camp, which is less than one square kilometer in area. Such a high density of people, coupled with a lack of finances, has strained the infrastructure to its breaking point. Even the children are aware of the infrastructure problems. During the presentation, a video of 12 year-old Shakir Moumour giving a tour of his neighborhood was shown.

Shakir stops in front of the drinking water tank and knocks it with his hand. A hollow sound: "see, empty... these people will have to buy their water." Not a pleasant prospect for families who often have only a single laborer as their source of income. Shakir continues the tour taking the camera on a tour of the over-flowing sewers, the dangerous tangle of wires at the electrical system's junction box and the garbage heaps lying around waiting to be burned.

Besides the day-to-day difficulties faced by the refugees, there have been a number of particularly horrifying events. One slide shown by Becker depicted a small clearing at the edge of the Shatila refugee camp. The site is now used by teenage boys as a rare soccer pitch, but below lies the mass grave filled with bodies from the Shatila Massacre.

The Massacre occurred in 1992 in which three thousand people died as violence erupted in the camp. "Until last year the sight was covered with garbage...now it is at least cleared, providing some decency to the memory of the dead," said Becker as she withheld the emotional outburst that such a sight elicits.

When considering the future, some facts from the past and present are inescapable. In 1948, after a year of fighting with a Jewish invasion force, over a million Palestinians fled from Palestine to its neighboring countries. According to the UN there are now 3.7 million Palestinian refugees, mostly living in Lebanon (356,000), Syria (352,000) and Jordan (1.4 million). These migrants



ANDREA BECKER

have been overlooked by both the Oslo Agreement and the Wye Plan-tation negotiations. There is no plan or opportunity for repatriation of the refugees to Israel or the occupied territories.

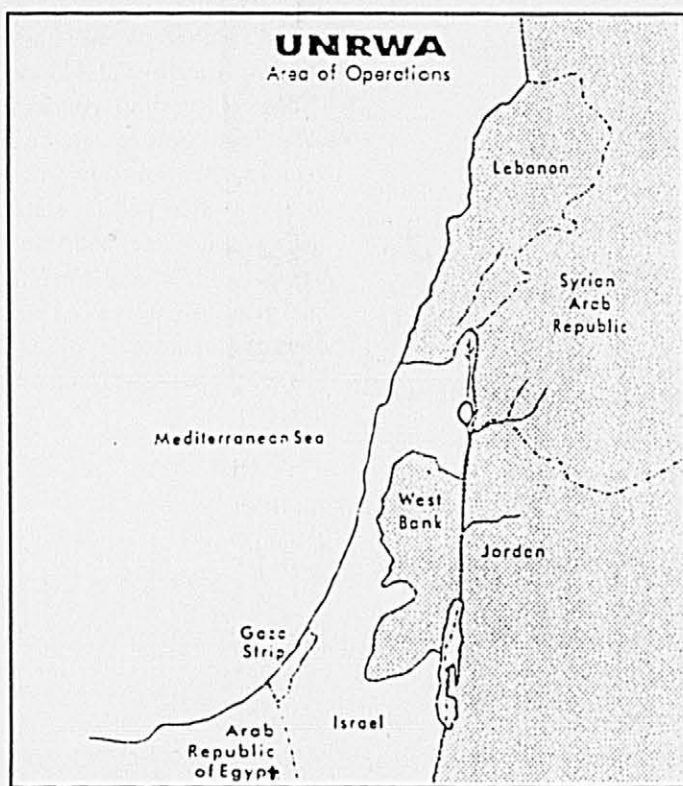
Feeling that their future is related to our present understanding of the situation, Zeitoun and Becker relayed messages from the people in the camps. When saying good-byes to friends in the camp, they both kept hearing the same phrases "Don't forget us," from the children and "Go tell them about us," from the adults.

One grandmother expressed the outrageous nature of the current situation "Why?" she said, expressing in broken English an idea that is missed by the most eloquent of western reporters, "Why they take Jews from all over the world and put them in Palestine? Don't they know that we were there already? Now Palestinians are all over the world."

Samir Sahen, a resident of Burj el-Barajneh, expressed his scattered-people's view of tomorrow, "Future? What Future? I was born in this country, but it is not my country! I can't afford to stay in school. I can't find a steady job. I'm a Palestinian in Lebanon. We can't go home. We aren't welcome here. We can't go to your country. You tell me. What can we do?"

Considering that the Burj el-Barajneh camp was created in 1948 (making it as old as the "state" of Israel) and that there is no plan for finding its inhabitants a permanent home, the refugees' future is likely to be as horrific and degrading as their past and present.

Robert Fisk, a British journalist for the Independent, will be giving a talk titled "Returned to Sender: Reporting the Middle East" on Thursday, November 12 at McGill.



McGill Proposes Midwifery Degree

BY MELANIE TAKEFMAN

The Senate approved a proposal to the Québec government to implement a Bachelor of Health Sciences in Midwifery degree, assuming that the government agrees to fund it, last Wednesday.

As part of the Québec government's attempts to reinstitute Midwifery in this province, the Ministère de l'Éducation issued an "Appel d'offres" for universities to design a program that would train midwives as autonomous professionals.

McGill's faculty of Medicine proposed a four-year 136-credit program for CEGEP graduates. Courses would include basic biology classes as well as humanities components and practical training.

Midwives are responsible for

care of a pregnant woman from pregnancy to newborn care, including delivery. The profession differs from Obstetrics in that Midwifery does not include care of abnormal pregnancies.

If McGill's proposal is approved by the government, the program will be implemented next September.

McGill is one of four Québec universities that have applied to host the program. Only one will be chosen to carry out the program.

The planning committee envisions a first-year class enrollment of 15.

The program would cost \$326 906 in the first year alone. The projected five-year cost would be about \$30 million. McGill would provide about 40% of that cost.

Since 1993, 60 midwives have received accreditation and in 1997 alone, 2700 babies were born with the help of Québec midwives. The provincial government hopes to increase these numbers with the university degree program.

Midwifery would be the first Bachelor's degree in Health Science because it did not fit under any other existing discipline, said McGill Vice Principal Chan, who presented the proposal to the Senate.

Today, Ontario is the only province in Canada with university programs in Midwifery. Bachelor of Health Science programs in Midwifery are offered at McMaster University, Ryerson Polytechnic and Laurentian University.

Palestine

(contd. from front cover)

"After the closing of the Queen Elizabeth, CLSCs and other hospitals were not prepared for the number of patients they were expected to absorb. The support infrastructure is simply not there, and a new hospital with a quarter of the beds will not be able to handle it." Nelson stressed the fact that the MUHC seems to be becoming more and more specialized as the planning progresses. He said that layoffs of some hospital staff would be probably be achieved through attrition, but this was not his primary concern. The union is considering taking their message to the public in a media campaign in coming weeks.

Dr. Fuks noted that the changes necessary to the hospitals could not be handled by such a pavilion, and that they involve far more than new places to put equipment.

"Imagine doing any job, be it printing a newspaper or running a hospital, in an environment that was built in the 1950's. It just isn't feasible. For instance, the reason that the Royal Vic and MGH were built on the mountain was that high altitudes were thought to be beneficial to your health. Have you ever tried to get to the Royal Vic in winter with a broken leg and crutches?"

Dr. Fuks was also quick to refute allegations that the hospital will be focused more on high-tech, cutting-edge research than patient care.

"We're not talking about only high-tech here; a whole range of care services will be provided, from standard hospital care to advanced cardiac research. We're not forgetting about patients."

Assuming that the project does go ahead as planned, what will become of the current buildings? MUHC reports have proposed a number of options, which include luxury apartments, seniors' apartments, and small condominiums for the Montréal General and retail and housing units for the Montréal Children's Hospital and the Chest Institute.

The gigantic Royal Victoria Hospital at the corner of Pine and University may be restored to its original site plan, as it is a building with national heritage status (among other reasons, the original manuscript of John McCrae's *In Flanders Fields* is on display in the lobby). The RVH may also be converted into high-end condominiums. The Montreal Neurological Hospital will be returned to McGill University, its present owner. Dr. Fuks said that the hospital's use would be decided when the move takes place in 2004.

Additional information on the McGill Superhospital is available at www.muhc.mcgill.ca

Comment

(contd. from page 3)

1. Développement de notre potentiel économique.
2. Soins de santé et services sociaux.
3. Éducation.
4. Développement social.
5. Un identité à affirmer, des droits à respecter
6. La souveraineté

Now the Liberal agenda:

1. Économie.
2. Santé
3. Jeunes.
4. Éducation.

Interestingly, neither party had an english version of their page available, but that's off topic. What's interesting about these lists is that, aside from the conspicuous absence of sovereignty from the Liberal list, the two are essentially identical.

It could be argued that though the issues are identical, where the parties stand on those issues is how they differ. The truth is, however, that both have been entirely vague when it comes to exactly what they plan to accomplish. Bouchard says he's putting money into social programs. He says he's going to balance the budget. Charest says he's going to put money into social programs, and he's going to balance the budget. Bouchard says Charest's numbers don't add up. Charest says they do. And so it continues.

As I mentioned, the only issue on which the two parties differ decisively, is the referendum issue. This is also, notably, one of the few issues on which the Québec people are truly decisive: as we all know, 64% of Québeckers don't want one. And on this, too, the media has been silent, instead emphasizing that this campaign is going to be issue-based.

But, when it comes down to the line, it isn't. Bouchard and Charest are too similar for this election to be about anything but a referendum. Both were originally in federal politics, both were members of the Progressive Conservatives. Both switched over to provincial politics. Both, for the 'good' of Québec. What we have are two conservatives running on platforms which, when it comes down to it, are not radically different from one another. This spring, when Charest switched over from the PC's, there was no doubt as to why he was doing it. The overwhelming pressure from across Canada, for Charest to switch his allegiance was not because of healthcare. It was because he was viewed as Canada's last line of defence against the sovereigntist forces. And when it comes down to the line, the issue of sovereignty is going to make it or break it for one of these two men.

Voter's Guidelines

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT!

Who can vote?

To vote, you must meet the following conditions on election day:

- be 18 years of age,
- be a Canadian citizen,
- have been domiciled in Québec for at least 6 months,
- be registered on the electoral list.

Are you registered?

Enumeration is no longer taken door-to-door in Québec. The list of electors is distributed to each household a few days before the revision. Please make sure that your name is correctly entered on the list. You will also receive a notice by mail stating whether your name appears on the electoral list. Another notice will also be sent to each address where no voter is registered inviting people who wish to register to present themselves at the revision office.

Where is your revision office?

The address of your revision office is written on the electoral list and published in the newspapers. The revision offices will be open November 9th through 17th, from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Where and when does voting take place?

To vote on election day, Monday, November 30th, between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., go to the address written on the reminder sent to you by the Chief Electoral Officer. If you think you will be absent or unable to vote on November 30th, you may vote before. Advance polling stations will be open Sunday and Monday, November 22nd and 23rd, from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.. The address of your advance polling station will be published on the electoral list.

Four hours to vote

On November 30th, your employer must give you at least four consecutive hours to vote, between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.. This is your right! This does not include mealtimes.

Have any questions?

For more information, do not hesitate to contact:

Le Directeur général des élections du Québec
Édifice René-Lévesque
3460, rue de La Pêrade
Sainte-Foy (Québec)
G1X 3Y5

Telephone: (418) 528-0422 or
1 888 ELECTION (1 888 353-2846)

E-mail: dgeq@dgeq.qc.ca

-With files from the Government of Québec

Elections

(contd. from front cover)

Elections McGill is the name of the autonomous agency that runs the upcoming elections. It is headed by the Chief Returning Officer, Drew Cormack, who was hired by VP Internal Karen Pelley, and who worked on the election last year. As CRO, he insures that the voting process runs smoothly and acts as judge should problems or disputes arise. For example, if no one runs for a specific position, as is the case in this year's FYSA elections where no one is running for VP Internal, he has to make the call. His decision is also needed in the case of a tie, or if quorum, a minimum 10% voter participation, isn't reached.

Cormack noted the changes that he has implemented this year to increase voter turnout. There are 14 polling stations this year, more than ever, and an abundance of

posters, especially concentrated in the areas where there will be no polling station, notably the Music Building, Solin Hall, and the gym. He feels that having Elections McGill be a separate entity from SSMU makes it "less transitory... and gives the posters an official air, not just one candidate saying come vote for me."

Pelley also unofficially advises the group, though she said that comprises of her mainly letting them know "what their responsibilities are."

bilities are."

Elections are being held on November 10, 11, and 12. The polls are open from 10AM to 5PM, and are located all over campus, including Shatner, Stewart Biology, Leacock, the Arts Building, BMH, and RVC. If you have any questions, Elections McGill encourages you to visit them in the Shatner basement, room Bo1B. You can also give them a call at 398-7441, or e-mail them at cro@ssmu.mcgill.ca.



ONE OF FOURTEEN VOTING BOOTHS ON CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): \$4.75 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.25 per day. General Public: \$6.00 per day, or \$5.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST or PST. Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. **WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER.** The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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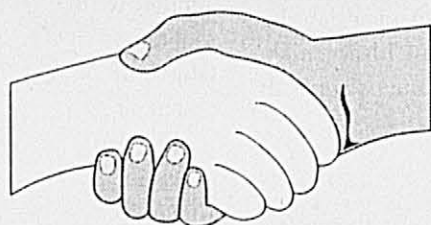
Kundalini Yoga & meditation
Classes Mondays & Wednesdays 6:30 pm (1st class free) Atwater Library 1200 Atwater info 488-6808.

Learn to create and publish web pages on the internet in just one day! \$49 - Sunday Nov. 15. stanz@cam.org 514-761-3145.

NOTICES

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